United Nations A/55/976–S/2001/548

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 May 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[30 May 2001]

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative on 8 May 2001 at the 59th meeting of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee), which distorts the facts pertaining to the Cyprus question, and bring to your kind attention the following.

The Greek Cypriot representative has alleged that "the continued military presence (of Turkey) in Cyprus made the presence of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) essential". In view of the fact that UNFICYP was dispatched to the island in 1964 soon after the Greek Cypriot onslaught against the Turkish Cypriot people, the attempt by the Greek Cypriot representative to draw a correlation between the presence of UNFICYP and the Turkish military presence in Northern Cyprus is futile.

I would like to emphasize that the Turkish military presence in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in accordance with the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, is a vital security requirement for the Turkish Cypriot people. The need for such continued guarantees can best be understood by looking at the recent history of the island. The years between 1963 and 1974 witnessed unprecedented cruelty, violence and human rights violations perpetrated by the Greek Cypriots against the Turkish Cypriot people. As a result of Greek Cypriot atrocities during those years, 103 villages had to be evacuated and 30,000 Turkish Cypriots had to take refuge in enclaves under inhuman conditions and in fear for their lives for 11 years. Thanks to the timely intervention by Turkey in 1974, the forcible annexation of the island to Greece was averted and the lives of Turkish Cypriots were saved.

It is ironic that the Greek Cypriot representative would question the Turkish military presence in Northern Cyprus while "the rearmament of Southern Cyprus continues within the framework of Greek-Greek Cypriot Joint Military Doctrine", as recently stated by the Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Glafcos Clerides (Greek Cypriot daily *Politis*, dated 23 April 2001). With the adoption of the "Joint Military Doctrine" by the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece in 1993, the former has been integrated into the military sphere of the latter by the extension of Greek air and naval power to South Cyprus.

Given the massive military build-up in South Cyprus and the hostile attitude of the Greek Cypriot leadership, it would be unthinkable for the Turkish Cypriot side to lower its guard. In a speech delivered on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of EOKA (the Greek Cypriot terrorist organization formed to realize the annexation of Cyprus to Greece), Mr. Clerides stated the following: "Liberating our lands that are under occupation is a serious responsibility on our shoulders which has to be fulfilled" (Greek Cypriot newspaper *Fileleftheros*, dated 2 April 2001).

The process of reconciliation in the island could be greatly facilitated if the Greek Cypriot side were to cease all hostile activities against the Turkish Cypriot side and all propaganda efforts that aim at distorting historical realities pertaining to the Cyprus issue. First and foremost, the Greek Cypriot leadership in South Cyprus

must be ready to shoulder the responsibility for all the calamities that have befallen Cyprus during 1963-1974.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus